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## JACK ANDERSON

# FBI, CIA Play A Little Game Of Snow White

The FBI and CIA are playing a little game of Snow White: "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the purest of them all?"

The CIA, it seems, has its doubts about the FBI's elite, 110-man counterintelligence staff. This is a role-reversal of the days when the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover doubted the CIA people's loyalty. Here's one incident:

In late October, the FBI assigned two G-men to the CIA for liaison duty. The FBI agents belonged to the bureau's counterintelligence force, supposedly the *creme de la creme*.

But in the course of their duties, the FBI men would have access to documents even beyond the top-secret category for which they had been cleared. So the CIA made them submit to the agency's rigorous polygraph tests, something the FBI does not require.

One of the G-men passed the lie-detector test; the other flunked. The CIA refused to give the second man clearance.

The questions in the CIA's polygraph examinations are extremely personal. They include such subjects

as sexual preference and practices, past and present, and any other personality traits that might render a CIA employee vulnerable to blackmail, greed or ideological temptation.

All CIA employees know they may be asked to take a lie-detector test at any time, without warning or stated reason. An innocent-looking red security pass merely turns up on the employee's desk. It's a non-refusable invitation to the security office for interrogation, while hooked up to the sweat-and-pulse beat machine.

But FBI agents aren't accustomed to such treatment. So when the one agent failed the CIA polygraph, his bureau bosses were unimpressed.

The questions the G-man flunked involved his continuing contacts with the KGB. Sources told my associates Dale Van Atta and Indy Badhwar that the agent, as a counterintelligence officer, dealt with undercover KGB people as part of his job. He may have expressed some sympathy for one of his KGB targets. No big deal, according to the FBI.

But to the CIA, the FBI man was a potential double agent. CIA Director William J. Casey and his deputy, Adm. Bobby R. Inman, were reportedly alarmed by the polygraph test results. They suggested that all 110 FBI counterintelligence agents be run through the CIA's lie-detector tests. Inman, a fan of polygraphs since his days as head of the National Security Agency, strongly urged the idea.

When FBI Director William Webster broached the idea tentatively, he was confronted with a virtual rebellion. The counterintelligence staff refused to submit to the rival agency's polygraphs, and some threatened to quit en masse if required to do so. Webster told the CIA to forget about the polygraph tests.

What Webster didn't realize, according to my sources, is that there were two reasons his counterintelligence agents didn't want to take the polygraph tests. One was their professional distaste for being pushed around by another bureaucracy.

But the main reason was fear that the CIA lie-detectors might turn up some unpleasant information.

Footnote: A CIA spokesman denied that any such dustup with the FBI has occurred.